

my hon. friend knows, welfare committees in the different towns take care of that situation. They are very active in most of the crowded areas that I know about, in endeavouring to see that the soldier's wife is placed under proper housing conditions.

With regard to the army overseas, my hon. friend has asked me a very difficult question concerning numbers. An army is not a fixed establishment. My hon. friend was a little wrong in his history. In the first place the first and second divisions went overseas and were formed into the Canadian corps. Then the third and fifth divisions went over; I do not think the fifth ever went into the first corps, but the second corps was formed and at the same time the army headquarters and organization was authorized as well. Army headquarters and organization involves the provision of staff at army headquarters and also provision for certain servicing units from army headquarters forward to the two corps which may be in the area, and a certain number of combatant units which are necessary and which the army commander may from time to time need to dispose of in one place or another in order to make his dispositions effective. It depends on the operation what units ancillary to the army are necessary. Certain fixed units in the way of supply and ordnance units are necessary, but the combatant units which it is necessary for the army commander to have depend on the type of operation. There never is a time when the army is entirely on its own so that it does not have other troops serving with it and serving it. My hon. friend will remember that in the last war we had a battery of the Lahore division up and down the line serving with the Canadian corps and assisting in relieving us. Of course the same thing would apply to the operation of the Canadian army if it were fighting. There would be other troops on lines of communication. I think I can get the figures of the number of officers and other ranks for army headquarters and for such ancillary troops as might not have been formed had there not been an army organization. I believe that is what my hon. friend wants.

The hon. member for Peterborough West thought he knew of a case in which men were asked to make repayment of assistance given them by the dependents' board of trustees. I have in my hand a circular sent out by the board, in which it is stated:

Grants made by the Dependents' Board of Trustees are not loans; they are not repayable and they do not affect regular Pay and Allowance cheques. The Dependents' Board of Trustees does not offer "charity": its object is to help dependents in cases of special hardship or emergency.

Mr. LOCKHART: I am to understand then that the general set-up and the approximate number and approximate cost will be available later with respect to the army overseas.

Mr. RALSTON: I think I can give my hon. friend something approximate.

Mr. LOCKHART: Could I be advised whether emergency accounts will be paid in full under extenuating circumstances, or whether there is some opinion held by the dependents' board of trustees that only a percentage will be paid?

Mr. RALSTON: I am advised positively that there is no opinion held by the trustees that in no case shall more than a percentage of hospital bills be paid. The amount depends on the circumstances of the individual case.

Mr. HAZEN: On Monday evening I addressed a question to the minister about the number of personnel, civil and military, serving in public relations, and the total of salaries and wages paid them. Has the minister that information available yet?

Mr. RALSTON: I have not the information at the moment. The hon. member asked for the number in each salary range both here and overseas, did he not? I do not mean to make him repeat the question, but that is the matter to which he refers?

Mr. HAZEN: Yes.

Mr. RALSTON: The information is being tabulated as fast as possible. I thought I had here some memorandum with regard to it. I cannot now make a complete statement about it, and perhaps I better leave it until I have the full information.

Mr. HAZEN: What I had in mind was to ask the minister to put it on *Hansard*. This item may pass without our having an answer to the question.

Mr. RALSTON: Would my hon. friend like it on *Hansard*? I can make it an order for return. It will be quite bulky.

Mr. HAZEN: No, I do not want it treated as an order for return.

Mr. RALSTON: I mean, I will see that it is copied in, or I will put it in *Votes and Proceedings*.

Mr. HAZEN: There is another item I might refer to under pay and allowances. It is a matter of which I cannot speak with any personal knowledge; it is an opinion expressed by an officer serving overseas with regard to pay and allowances in one particular